LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. **(Previously Presented)** A recording apparatus comprising:

a continuous recording unit operable to, with use of a recording medium as a ring buffer, realized continuous recording of broadcast content;

a receiving unit operable to receive a specification on a period of time within the broadcast content, wherein said receiving unit displays a menu in which the current time is associated with a time N hours ago prior to the current time, and a retention of a broadcast content after the end of a broadcasting is based on the received specification on the period of time via the menu; and

a setting unit operable to set a protective attribute onto a part of the recording medium corresponding to the period of time, wherein the broadcast content is made up of a plurality of video units, the continuous recording obtains the broadcast content broadcasted from N hours ago to the current time onto the recording medium by, each time a broadcast is received and a new video unit is generated from the received broadcast, overwriting the ring buffer with the generated video unit, and the part of the recording medium having the protective attribute is protected against the overwriting performed by said continuous recording unit; and

a pointer operable to indicate a location of writing in the recording medium, said continuous recording unit being operable to perform the overwriting to the ring buffer by irrespective of whether the ring buffer has been viewed by a user or not, (i) writing the new video unit to the location of writing indicated by said pointer, and (ii) subsequently adding a size of the new video unit to said pointer,

wherein the recording apparatus is operable to protect against overwriting by adding an offset to said pointer when said pointer reaches a vicinity of the part having the protective attribute such that said pointer skips the part having the protective attribute.

2. **(Canceled)**

3. **(Previously Presented)** The recording apparatus of Claim 1, wherein

the part of the recording medium having the protective attribute stores therein two or more video units which represent one of a plurality of broadcast programs that have been broadcasted between N hours ago and the current time,

the recording apparatus further comprises a display unit operable to display a schedule table of the plurality of broadcast programs, and

the period of time is a period during which the one of the plurality of broadcast programs is being broadcasted.

4. **(Previously Presented)** The recording apparatus of Claim 1, wherein

the specification is made by an operation of inputting a starting time and an ending time of the period.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The recording apparatus of Claim 1, wherein

the specification is made by an operation of inputting a starting time, and

the part of the recording medium having the protective attribute stores therein two or more video units which correspond to either (a) a predetermined length of time beginning at the starting time or (b) a predetermined length of time into past from the starting time.

6. **(Original)** The recording apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:

a loading unit operable to load a portable recording medium; and

a copying unit operable to copy, onto the portable recording medium, the part of the recording medium having the protective attribute.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The recording apparatus of Claim 6, wherein

the part of the recording medium keeps the protective attribute thereon until the part finishes being copied onto the portable recording medium, at which time the protective attribute gets cancelled.

8. **(Previously Presented)** The recording apparatus of Claim 1, wherein

the part of the recording medium having the protective attribute stores therein two or more video units which represent one of a plurality of broadcast programs that have been broadcasted between N hours ago and the current time,

the recording apparatus further comprises a reproducing unit operable to reproduce each of the video units recorded on the recording medium, and

said setting unit, when each of the plurality of broadcast programs finishes being reproduced, inquires whether or not a period corresponding to each broadcast program should be retained, and

the specification is an affirmative reply in response to the inquiry.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The recording apparatus of Claim 1, wherein

the part of the recording medium having the protective attribute stores therein two or more video units which represent one of a plurality of broadcast programs that have been broadcasted between N hours ago and the current time,

the recording apparatus further comprises a reproducing unit operable to reproduce each of the video units recorded on the recording medium, and

the specification indicates that a period corresponding to a broadcast program currently being reproduced should be retained.

10. **(Previously Presented)** A computer-readable program recorded on a computer-readable recording medium which when executed performs steps for a recording processing, the steps comprising:

a continuous recording step of realizing, with use of a recording medium as a ring buffer, continuous recording of broadcast content;

a receiving step of receiving a specification on a period of time within the broadcast content, wherein the receiving step includes displaying a menu in which the current time is associated with a time N hours ago prior to the current time, and a retention of a broadcast

content after the end of a broadcasting is based on the received specification on the period of time via the menu;

a setting step of setting a protective attribute onto a part of the recording medium corresponding to the period of time, wherein the broadcast content is made up of a plurality of video units, the continuous recording obtains the broadcast content broadcasted from N hours ago to the current time onto the recording medium by, each time a broadcast is received and a new video unit is generated from the received broadcast, overwriting the ring buffer with the generated video unit, and the part of the recording medium having the protective attribute is protected against the overwriting performed in the continuous recording step; and

an operating step of operating a pointer to indicate a location of writing in the recording medium, the continuous recording step performing the overwriting to the ring buffer by irrespective of whether the ring buffer has been viewed by a user or not, (i) writing the new video unit to the location of writing indicated by the pointer, and (ii) subsequently adding a size of the new video unit to the pointer,

wherein the protection against the overwriting is made by adding an offset to the pointer when the pointer reaches a vicinity of the part having the protective attribute such that the pointer skips the part having the protective attribute.

11. **(Canceled)**

12. **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable program of Claim 10, wherein

the part of the recording medium having the protective attribute stores therein two or more video units which represent one of a plurality of broadcast programs that have been broadcasted between N hours ago and the current time,

the computer-readable program further comprises a display step of displaying a schedule table of the plurality of broadcast programs, and

the period of time is a period during which the one of the plurality of broadcast programs is being broadcasted.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable program of Claim 10, wherein

the specification is made by an operation of inputting a starting time and an ending time of the period.

14. **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable program of Claim 10, wherein

the specification is made by an operation of inputting a starting time, and

the part of the recording medium having the protective attribute stores therein two or more video units which correspond to either (a) a predetermined length of time beginning at the starting time or (b) a predetermined length of time into past from the starting time.

15. **(Original)** The computer-readable program of Claim 10, further comprising:

a loading step of loading a portable recording medium; and

a copying step of copying, onto the portable recording medium, the part of the recording medium having the protective attribute.

16. **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable program of Claim 15, wherein

the part of the recording medium keeps the protective attribute thereon until the part finishes being copied onto the portable recording medium, at which time the protective attribute gets cancelled.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The computer-readable program of Claim 10, wherein

the part of the recording medium having the protective attribute stores therein two or more video units which represent one of a plurality of broadcast programs that have been broadcasted between N hours ago and the current time,

the computer-readable program further comprises a reproducing step of reproducing each of the video units recorded on the recording medium, and

the setting step, when each of the plurality of broadcast programs finishes being

reproduced, inquires whether or not a period corresponding to each broadcast program should be retained, and

the specification is an affirmative reply in response to the inquiry.

18. **(Presently Presented)** The computer-readable program of Claim 10, wherein

the part of the recording medium having the protective attribute stores therein two or more video units which represent one of a plurality of broadcast programs that have been broadcasted between N hours ago and the current time,

the computer-readable program further comprises a reproducing step of reproducing each of the video units recorded on the recording medium, and

the specification indicates that a period corresponding to a broadcast program currently being reproduced should be retained.